

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining information regarding at least one printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:

calling a general printer driver directly from an application executed by the client computer;

transmitting a query from the client computer to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer;

receiving an identification of the at least one available printer from the server; ~~and~~

downloading a file from the server used to support printing to a selected one of the at least one available printer; and

wherein the general printer driver is accessible as a destination printer in a print menu, and wherein the general printer driver is configured to initiate the transmitting when selected as the destination printer.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~ealling a general printer driver from an application being executed by the client computer;~~
~~and~~

launching a printing agent with the general printer driver, the printing agent generating the query transmitted from the client computer to the server for the identification of the at least one available printer.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the general printer driver is a PostScript printer driver.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the method further comprises overwriting a generic printer description file with the downloaded printer description file and converting application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification of the at least one available printer received from the server is a list of printers.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying the identification of the at least one available printer for the user to select the selected one of the at least one available printer.

9. (Currently amended) A client computer adapted for communication with a network, the network having a server and at least one printer, the client computer having a utility for determining information regarding the at least one printer comprising:

means for calling a general printer driver directly from an application executed by the client computer;

means for transmitting a query to the server via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer;

means for receiving an identification of the at least one available printer from the server;

and

means for downloading a file from the server used to support printing to a selected one of the at least one available printer; and

wherein the general printer driver is accessible as a destination printer in a print menu,
and wherein the general printer driver is configured to initiate the transmitting when selected as
the destination printer.

10. (Currently amended) The client computer according to claim 9, further comprising:

~~means for calling a general printer driver from an application being executed by the client~~
~~computer; and~~

means for launching a printing agent with the general printer driver, the printing agent generating the query transmitted to the server for the identification of the at least one available printer.

11. (Original) The client computer according to claim 9, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the client computer further includes means for overwriting a generic printer description file with the downloaded printer description file and means for converting application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

12. (Original) The client computer according to claim 11, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

13. (Original) The client computer according to claim 9, wherein the identification of the at least one available printer received from the server is a list of printers including information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

14. (Original) The client computer according to claim 9, further comprising means for displaying the identification of the at least one available printer for the user to select the selected one of the at least one available printer.

15. (Currently amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium to determine information regarding at least one printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:

general printer driver code accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of an application executed by the client computer, the general printer driver code directly callable by the application when selected as the destination printer, the general printer driver code including

code that transmits a query from the client computer to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer;

code that receives an identification of the at least one available printer from the server;
and

code that downloads a file from the server used to support printing to a selected one of the at least one available printer.

16. (Currently amended) The program according to claim 15, wherein ~~the program is launched by a general printer driver,~~ the general printer driver code is called from an the application ~~being executed by the client computer~~ in response to a print command entered by a user.

17. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein the general printer driver is a PostScript printer driver.

18. (Original) The program according to claim 15, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the program further comprises code that overwrites a generic printer

description file with the downloaded printer description file so that a printer driver can convert application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

19. (Original) The program according to claim 18, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

20. (Original) The program according to claim 15, wherein the identification of the at least one available printer received from the server is a list of printers.

21. (Original) The program according to claim 20, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

22. (Original) The program according to claim 15, further comprising code that displays the identification of the at least one available printer for the user to select the selected one of the at least one available printer.

23. (Currently amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium for execution by a server to enable a client computer to determine information regarding at least one printer available to receive a print job from the client computer, comprising:

code that receives a query from the client computer via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer, the query initiated by an application executed by the client computer directly calling a general printer driver, the general printer driver accessible as a destination printer in a print menu and configured to initiate the query when selected as the destination printer;

code that transmits an identification of the at least one available printer to the client computer; and

code that transmits a file to the client computer, the file used to support printing to a selected one of the at least one available printer.

24. (Original) The program according to claim 23, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file.

25. (Original) The program according to claim 23, wherein the identification of the at least one available printer is a list of printers.

26. (Original) The program according to claim 25, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

27. (Original) The program according to claim 23, further comprising code that polls network devices to determine the identification of the at least one available printer.

28. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the general print driver does not support printing to a particular printer.

29. (New) The program according to claim 15, wherein the general print driver code does not support printing to a particular printer.